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NSPR requesting comment on immigration enforcement response

Jason Wines <jwines@oropd.org> Sun, Feb 2, 2025 at 8:57 AM
To: Anthony Vasek <anthonydvasek@gmail.com>

See my hesitant answer below. I am a firm believer in honest and productive discussions; however, I also feel this transparency is often taken out of context or used to support a specific agenda.

From: Anthony Vasek <anthonydvasek@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 8:58 AM
To: Jason Wines <jwines@oropd.org>
Subject: NSPR requesting comment on immigration enforcement response

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Good afternoon, Police Chief Wines,

I'm a producer with North State Public Radio working on a story about local law enforcement's plans to respond to the Trump Administration's requests with immigration enforcement.

In his last term as part of a broader strategy to increase deportations, President Trump called local law enforcement "force multipliers" for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

1. What role does Police Chief Wines believe local law enforcement should play in immigration enforcement?

I do not believe local law enforcement should have anything to do with immigration enforcement, that should always remain at the federal level. No officer under my command will ever utilize immigration status as a reason for detention. My job is to protect the public and nowhere in the constitution does it require that service be offered to citizens only.

2. A leaked DOJ memo shows officials have ordered federal prosecutors to target state and local officials who do not cooperate with Trump's planned deportations. What is Police Chief Wines' response to this?

To begin with this question is a misrepresentation of what the memo says. There is no request or directive for state or local officials to "cooperate with Trump's planned deportations." The memo suggests that officials and areas who define themselves as sanctuary areas, meaning they will not involve federal authorities under any circumstances, will be identified and federal funding will be restricted. If that changes, and the feds direct local officials to conduct immigration operations, then we will not participate. We do appreciate the federal help in removing violent or repeat criminal offenders.

I believe California, especially under Newsom, has used immigration as a political soapbox. California has gone beyond protecting people trying to obtain a better life to now protecting criminal conduct. The Governor's office is quick to take federal funding, but then wants to pick and choose what they wish to participate. This double standard only causes harm

to our communities in that violent and/ or repeat criminals, here illegally, are allowed to remain under current California law. Newsom has reduced the prisons, put an unsustainable financial burden on local governments, many of which are state mandated programs, and then prevented local government from using tools to keep our community safer, tools that have been used successfully in the past. We now have too many criminals being protected by out state legislators, and, I can speak for many in law enforcement, we are tired of it. California Chiefs Association has failed to speak honestly about this issue for fear of retaliation from the governor, but I do not support that approach.

3. Does the police department plan to comply with SB 54 or with federal direction when it comes to cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

Follow the law or follow the law? By doing my job the only law I would be breaking is the state law under SB 54. Currently if I have a violent criminal who has entered this country illegally and I try to reach out to the feds for help, I am violating state law. I know under the current sentencing laws this violent criminal will see minimal time and be right back out on the streets. If I was able to use the feds to review for deportation to the home county, and still have the prosecution remain, the criminal must get back to the US knowing there is a prison sentence hanging over them. In doing just that, I violate state law. You tell me what I should do; Keep my community as safe as I can, or not risk state officials coming after me. The state is the public safety enemy on this issue, not the feds.

I further believe our bureaucratic, red-taped, procedure of securing citizenship is unduly difficult and does not reflect the values of our country. Being a citizen is more than just paperwork and hoping you get the right worker to process the application. We treat the citizenship process no differently than someone going to DMV. As I stated above, none of my folks will every use immigration as a means for detention, but frankly law enforcement in the North rarely did. I believe this country has something to offer people who are willing to work hard and be part of our communities. I also believe we are seeing, at a record rate, the number of people entering this country illegally, who have no desire to integrate, but to exploit our citizens. Law enforcement needs help in dealing with these people, however state law prevents us from receiving that help.

4. Is Police Chief Wines available for a more in-depth interview about these conflicting directions from state and federal officials, and how it impacts him in fulfilling his role?

I am willing, with hesitation. If people want to know the reality of the current situation, as facts support, then yes. I have no interest in being part of a political debate. Remember, when rhetoric and reality collide, the community suffers.

We are asking other police departments in the North State the same four questions. The deadline for a response is February 3rd.

Thank you very much for your time,

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Anthony Vasek

Student Assistant

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